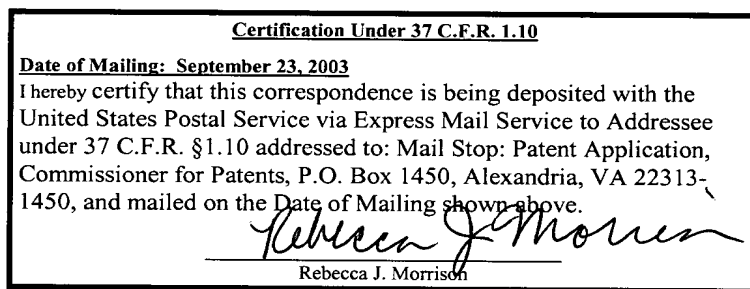


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Thomas E. Drake, Jr.
Serial No. Unknown
Filing Date: Herewith
Group Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING ULTRASONIC
SURFACE DISPLACEMENTS USING POT COLLECTION
OPTICAL AMPLIFICATION

Mail Stop: Patent Applications
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend this continuation application before examination.

Please replace the first paragraph of page 1 with the following paragraph:

RELATED APPLICATIONS:

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application no. 09/416,399 filed October 12, 1999 entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING ULTRASONIC SURFACE DISPLACEMENTS USING POST-COLLECTION OPTICAL AMPLIFICATION", which claims the priority to and incorporates by reference U.S. patent application no. 09/345,558 filed June 30, 1999 entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING ULTRASONIC SURFACE DISPLACEMENTS USING POST-COLLECTION OPTICAL AMPLIFICATION", which claims priority to and incorporates by reference the prior U.S. provisional application no. 60/091,229 filed on June 30, 1998 entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING ULTRASONIC SURFACE DISPLACEMENTS USING POST-COLLECTION OPTICAL AMPLIFICATION", and incorporates by reference U.S. provisional application no. 60/091,240 filed on June 30, 1998 entitled, "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ULTRASONIC LASER TESTING" by Thomas E. Drake.